

MARVEL
COMICS



JUNE
#5



GAMBIT

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INTO THE
ABYSS!

06



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HAVE ALL OF MY BELIEFS BEEN BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF LIES?

THE TRAPPINGS OF THE X-CUTIONER COVER THE LIE THAT IS THE LIFE OF FEDERAL AGENT CARL DENTI.

AND MAYBE I LOST SIGHT OF CARL DENTI BEFORE MY BUREAU MENTOR, FRED DUNCAN, WAS KILLED BY MUTANTS.

MUTANTS, WHO ARE FEARED AS THE "NEXT STEP IN HUMAN EVOLUTION," WHEN THAT ITSELF IS A LIE. THEY ARE MERELY A CANCEROUS ABERRATION.

SO I CREATED THE X-CUTIONER TO REMOVE THE MALIGNANT TUMORS FROM THE FACE OF THE PLANET.

THEN I ENCOUNTERED A MUTANT WHO STRUCK TO THE HEART OF BOTH DENTI AND THE X-CUTIONER'S BELIEFS.

REMY LEBEAU, KNOWN TO SOME AS GAMBIT.

THIEF, MUTANT WHO CAN KINETICALLY CHARGE OBJECTS. MEMBER OF THE OUTLAW X-MEN.

I'VE MADE HIS APPREHENSION A MATTER OF HONOR AND PERSONAL REDEMPTION.

AN EXAGGERATION? PERHAPS, BUT I STUBBORNLY CLING TO IT.

TO THE POINT OF INVOLVING AN INNOCENT PRIN IN THIS GAME. HIS TERMINATE, ROGUE.

SHE IS AN INTERESTING ONE. SHE HAS TO UNCOVER HERSELF TO REVEAL THE LIE BENEATH THE TRUTH.

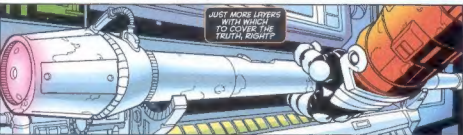
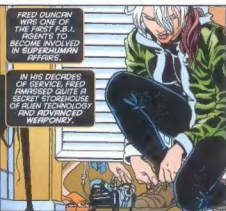
THE TRUTH: ACCORDING TO MY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, HER MUTANT POWER ABSORBS THE MEMORIES OF ANYONE SHE TOUCHES.

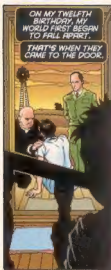
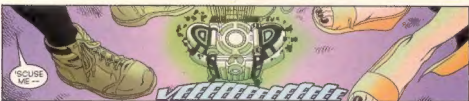
ROGUE CAN'T CONTROL THEM. THEREFORE, SHE REMAINS COVERED AT ALL TIMES.

THE LIE: SHE COMES HERE ALONE TO LOOK AT A... FALSE REFLECTION.

Fabian Nicieza & Steve Skroce ♦ **Rob Hunter with Walden Wong** ♦ **RS/Comicroft's Saidat T**
writer • storytellers • penciler ♦ **inks** ♦ **letters**
Marie Javins with Shannon Blanchard colors ♦ **Mark Powers editor** ♦ **Bob Harras chief**

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IT WASN'T UNTIL I'D
PUT IN TEN YEARS
AT THE BUREAU THAT
I ACHIEVED THE
SECURITY CLEARANCE
NECESSARY --

-- TO OBTAIN
THE TRUTH.

THEY SAY "THE TRUTH
SHALL SET YOU FREE."
THEY LIED.

IT HAS
TRAPPED
ME FOR MY
ENTIRE LIFE.

I GUESS WE ALL
LIE TO OURSELVES
A LITTLE, TO HIDE
THE THINGS WE
CAN'T BEAR TO
DEAL WITH.

Stan Lee Presents:

OF MICE AND MEN



A TALE OF

GAMBIT & ROGUE



ACCEPTING THE TRUTH
ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU
LOVE IS THE FIRST STEP
TOWARD RECONCILING THE
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
WHO YOU ARE...

...AND
WHO YOU
WANT
TO BE.

ROGUE,

X-CUTIONER!

YOU DESERVE
BETTER THAN
BEING USED AS
BAIT... BUT THEN,
I DESERVE
BETTER THAN
HAVING TO USE
YOU THIS WAY.

PH'M
FEELIN' SO
SYMPATHETIC
RIGHT ABOUT
NOW.

I'M SURE.

WELL,
YOU COULDN'T
PICKED AN EASIER
TARGET TO LURE
INTO A TRAP.

REMY LABEAU
IS RECKLESS.
HE WILL TAKE
THE BAIT.

YUP, FOR
SURE. BUT GETTIN'
THE MOUSE INTO
THE MAZE IS ONE
THING...



"... AN' GETTIN' HIM TO RUN IT IS A WHOLE 'NOTHER MATTER."

YOU SHOULD HAVE INFORMED US OF YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH HIM, REMY.



ROGUE KNEW. AFTER THE CEREBRO TING, THEN THE MAGNETO TING, I JUS' THOUGHT IT RANKED LOW ON THE "WOF IS MUTANTS" SCALE.

AT THIS POINT, ROGUE MIGHT NOT AGREE WITH THAT ASSESSMENT.

OR, KNOWIN' HOW FEISTY TH' GIRL IS, SHE STILL MIGHT.

AFTER ALL THE DECEPTIONS WE'VE ENDURED...

... WOULDN'T YOU AGREE THAT THE X-MEN BEST SERVE EACH OTHER AND OUR CAUSE WHEN WE ARE TRUTHFUL TO EACH OTHER?



IT'S LIKE OVERHEARING THE PRINCIPAL LECTURING SOMEONE IN HIS OFFICE.

MISSED OUT ON THAT TRADITIONAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE, KATZCHEN.

YEAH, THE BLUE FUR WOULD DO THAT.

KITTY PRYDE AND KURT WAGNER, SHADOWCAT AND NIGHTCRAWLER, ARE REMY'S TEAMMATES, IF NOT COMPLETELY YET HIS FRIENDS.

BUT THEY'VE BEEN ON THE RECEIVING END OF A PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER LECTURE BEFORE, SO THEY KNOW HOW GAMBIT IS FEELING.

PARTS LIKE THIS WERE WORTH MISSING, FUZZY ELF.

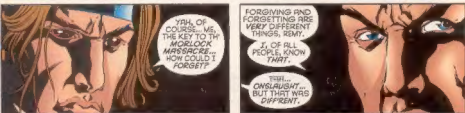


THEY THINK...

YOU GOTTA AGREE, PROF. THAT TH' TRUTH IS AN ADJUSTABLE COMMODITY IN OUR LINE OF WORK.

BUT NOT AMONGST YOUR TEAMMATES!

YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, SHOULD KNOW THAT BY NOW.



YAH, OF COURSE... ME, THE KEY TO TH' MORLOCK MASSACRE... HOW COULD I FORGET?

FORGIVING AND FORGETTING ARE VERY DIFFERENT THINGS, REMY.

I, OF ALL PEOPLE, KNOW THAT.

THAT... ONSLAUGHT... BUT THAT WAS DIFFERENT.



IN YOUR EYES, MAYBE, BUT NOT IN MINE.

THE SAME IS TRUE ABOUT HOW YOUR FELLOW X-MEN SEE YOU COMPARED WITH HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF.

HATE TO INTERRUPT, GANG --

"... BUT WE'VE
REACHED THE
COORDINATES
X-CUTIONER'S
MESSAGE
GAVE US..."

FANCHEST
ONE I'VE EVER
SEEN.

STARGATE?

MOUSETRAP.

I'M AMAZED
X-CUTIONER'S
TECHNOLOGY IS THIS
SOPHISTICATED!

I THOUGHT
HE WAS JUST
A SCAVENGER OF
DISCARDED ALIEN
WEAPONS!

MAKE A
BUNDLE PUTTIN'
HIS COLLECTION
FOR SALE ON HOME
SHOPPING
NETWORK.

BAM!
SO, KNOWING WE
KNOW LESS THAN
WE THOUGHT,
DO WE STILL STEP
RIGHT INTO HIS
TRAPP?

HE'S GOT
ROGUE. THAT
ANSWERS THE
QUESTION,
FAR'S I'M
CONCERNED.

THE GATE IS
PRE-PROGRAMMED,
BUT I CAN'T ACCESS
THE COORDINATES!

WALKING
INTO A TRAP IS
ONE THING --
-- BUT TO DO
SO BLINDLY IS --

WHAT'S
TH' SAYING,
PROF...

"... LOVE IS
BLIND" --P

SEE YOU
LATER.

Uhm...
IT DIDN'T
WORK?

WEEP
NO -- IT
WORKED
TOO WELL! IT
ONLY TOOK
GAMBIT!

INTERLUDE I

EVEN THE DREAMER
MUST DREAM.

HER NAME IS
FONTANELLE.

SHE IS A MUTANT AND A
THERAPIST OF SORTS WHO,
FOR A PRICE, PSYCHICALLY
SCRAPE'S THROUGH A
TARGET'S DREAMS TO
OBTAIN INFORMATION.

SHE HAS BEEN IN THE EMPLOY
OF A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE NAMED
THE NEW SON, WHO INSTRUCTED
HER TO PIECE TOGETHER THE
PUZZLE THAT IS REMY LEBEAU.

UNABLE TO LATCH ONTO REMY'S MIND, SHE'S
STUDIED HIM THROUGH THE MEMORIES AND
INTERPRETATIONS OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW HIM.

TONIGHT, FOR FUN, SHE DECIDED
TO TRY AND DREAMSCRAPE THE
NEW SON HIMSELF. BIG MISTAKE.

SHE STRUGGLES TO WADE
THROUGH THE TAR-FIELD OF
MEMORIES WHICH MAKE UP THE
NEW SON'S SUBCONSCIOUS
WITH A TERRIFYING FEELING
OF RECOGNITION.

HAS SHE BEEN WHERE HE'S
BEEN? SEEN WHAT HE'S
SEEN?

AND WHY DOES SHE KNOW
TO THE CORE OF HER BEING
THAT ALL OF THIS SOMEHOW
TIES BACK TO GAMBIT AS WELL?

FOR THE FIRST TIME,
FONTANELLE GETS A
GLIMPSE OF NEW SON
AND FINDS HERSELF
SO CLOSE TO
UNDERSTANDING IT
ALL --

-- THEN HE LOOKS
RIGHT AT HER WITH
EYES THAT HAVE SEEN
SO MUCH --

-- AND PROMPTLY
KICKS HER OUT
OF HIS MIND!

SHE AWAKENS WITH
HIS WARNING AND
CHALLENGE ECHOING
SOFTLY IN HER EARS...

"All Great
Truths Began as
Blasphemies."

END INTERLUDE I

HE'S ON
HIS WAY.

STARGATE
RIDDIMITY
IN PROCESS

IF MY WORLD STARTED
FALLING APART ON MY
TWELFTH BIRTHDAY --

—THEN TODAY, ON MY
FORTY-THIRD, IT BEGINS
COMING TOGETHER!

BY HIS
LONESOME?

GEE, WOULDRA
THOUGHT SOME OF
THE OTHER X-BOYS
MIGHT'VE JOINED IN
TO RESCUE A PROPER
SOUTHERN DAMEL
IN DISTRESS.

DON'T TAKE IT
PERSONALLY.

THE STARGATE WAS
PROGRAMMED TO
LOOK OUT THE GENETIC
PATTERNS OF ANYONE
BUT LEBERU.

REVENGE?

JUSTICE.

KEEP SAYIN' IT ENOUGH
AN' YOU MIGHT START
BELIEVIN' IT.

COSMO STEPHANOPOULUS,
ELLENTHORPE AND
JACK FARLEY THINK
REVENGE IS GOOD
ENOUGH FOR THEM.

GAMBIT GOT THEM
ALL FIRED FROM THEIR
HI-TECH AND HIGH-
PAYING SECURITY
JOBS AT ELYSIAN
ENTERPRISES.

IF MY FIRING
SQUAD CAN
BE HONEST
ABOUT IT,
WHY CAN'T I?

AND WITH THE TRAP
SPRING, NOW IS NO
LONGER THE TIME
FOR SELF-DOUBT.

LEBERAU'S INTERPOL
FILE IS SIX INCHES
THICK.

EVEN IF ALL OF IT IS
HEARSAY, INNUEENDO
AND RUMOR THAT
WOULDN'T HOLD SQUAT
IN A COURT OF LAW,
THAT DOESN'T MEAN
HE'S INNOCENT.

HE'S JUST BETTER
AT HIDING THE TRUTH
THAN MOST OF US...

REMY...

NGHH...
OH, MY OWN
PERSONAL
GHOST, YOU'VE
BEEN QUIET
LATELY,
CHERE.

YOU WERE HOPING THAT I WAS
GONE? NO, REMY, I AM STILL
INSIDE OF YOU, AND CLOSER
THAN EVER TO ACHIEVING
MY GOAL.

WHICH IS
WHY ALL OF
THIS EMOTIONAL
ENERGY BEING
SPENT ON
ROGUE --

-- COULD PROVE
DETRIMENTAL
TO BOTH OF
YOU!

STAY
OUT OF
THIS!

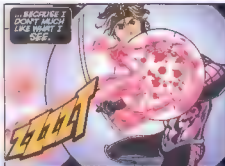
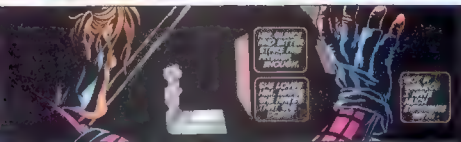
I'M NOT
GON' LEAVE
HER 'CAUSE
OF YOUR
THREATS!

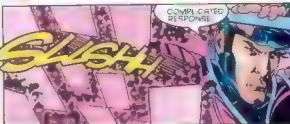
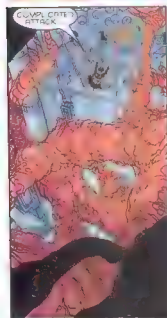
LET IT LIE,
CHERE, OR I
COME CLEAN
ON YOU --

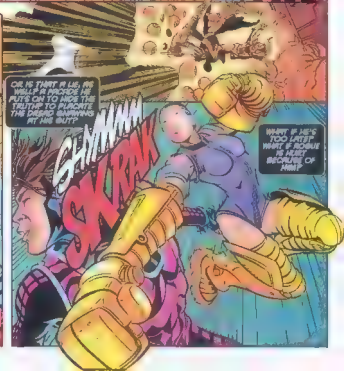
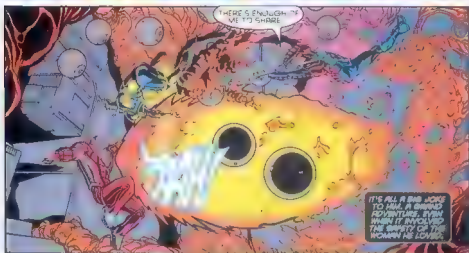
-- AN' I
GUARANTEE TH'
X-MEN HAVE THE
RESOURCES TO
GET YOU OUTTA ME!

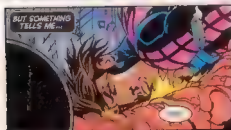
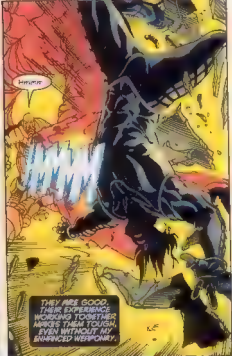
ONLY AIN'
DONE IT YET
'CAUSE YOU
SAVED MY
LIFE.

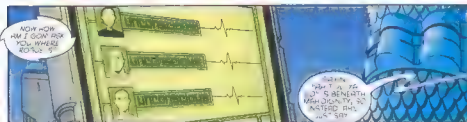
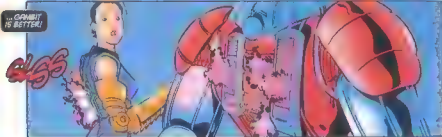
BUT SOON
ENOUGH, EVEN
THAT DEBT WON'T
BE ENOUGH TO
COVER THE COST
OF YOUR
THREATS...

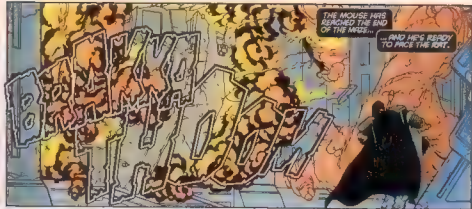












THE MOUSE HAS
REACHED THE END
OF THE MAZE...

...AND HE'S READY
TO FACE THE RIT.



I DO HAVE TO
WORK ON MY
SELF-WARBE.

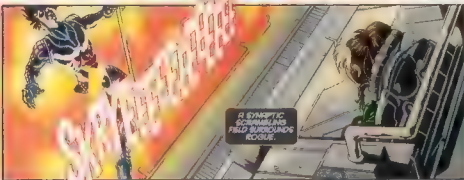
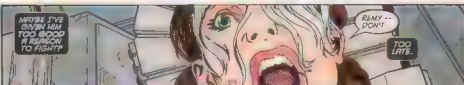
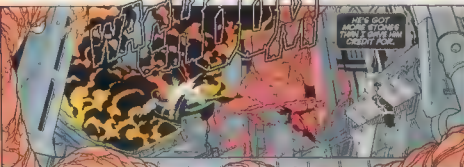
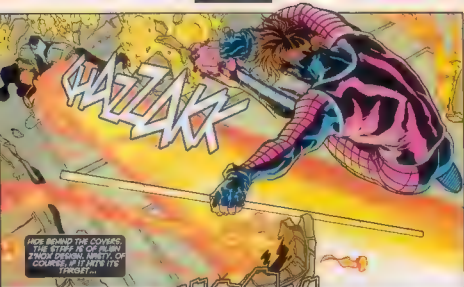
THAT STARTS
THE SECOND
PART OF I SLIP
THE CLIFFS ON
LEBBAU.

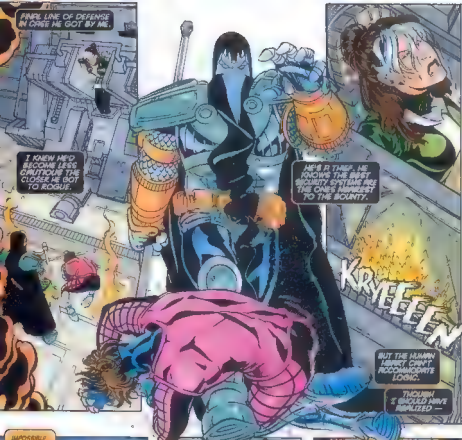
EXPOSE THE LIE
FOR WHAT IT IS.

IN BOTH OUR
CASES FEAR,
PURE AND
SIMPLE.

FOR HIM: FEAR THAT
WHEN ALL IS SAID AND
DONE, HE DOESN'T
DESERVE ANY BETTER
THAN WHAT HE MERITS
ON HIMSELF.

AND FOR
ME?





FIRE LINE OF DEFENSE
IN CASE HE GOT BY ME.

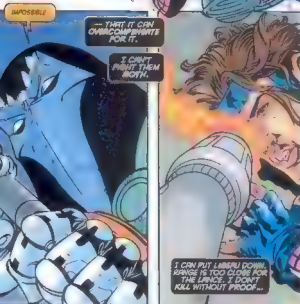
I KNEW HE'D
BECOME LESS
CAUTIOUS THE
CLOSER HE GOT
TO ROGUE.

HE'S A THIEF. HE
KNOWS THE BEST
SECURITY SYSTEMS ARE
THE ONES NEAREST
TO THE BOUNTY.

KRYEEEN

BUT THE HUMAN
LIBERU CAN'T
ACCOMMODATE
LOOKING.

THOUGH
I SHOULD HAVE
REALIZED —



IMPOSSIBLE

— THAT IT CAN
OVERCOMPENSATE
FOR IT.

I CAN'T
FIGHT THEM
BOTH.

I CAN PUT LIBERU DOWN.
RANGE IS TOO CLOSE FOR
THE LANCE. I DON'T
KILL WITHOUT PROOF...



... BUT I CAN'T
FIGHT THEM
BOTH.

RENNY!

FOR HONOR, I
UNDERSTAND, FOR
JUSTICE, EVEN
FOR REVENGE.

I HAVE SERVED
MY ENTIRE LIFE FOR
ALL THREE REASONS.

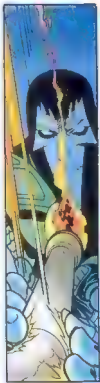
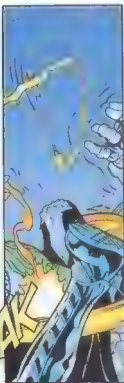
BUT FOR
LOVE?

UNTIL TODAY, I
COULDN'T EVEN
PRETEND TO
UNDERSTAND THE
DREAMS ONE
COULD FALL FOR
THE MISTAKE
ONE COULD SWICH
FOR THAT.

I REALIZE THAT
LAWFUL AND ROGUE
HAVE GONE TO
BOTH EXTREMES.

I'M THE POORER
FOR NOT HAVING
UNDERSTOOD
THAT GOES INTO
THIS...

...AND FOR
NEVER
HAVING
DONE IT
MYSELF.







SO NOW I KNOW HOW
IT FEELS TO BE ON THE
RECEIVING END OF MY
LANCE.



MASK SEARED ONTO
MY FACE — VISION
BLURRY — HEARING
SHOT — PAIN IS
PARALYZING —



— SOMEONE IN
FRONT OF ME?

THEY'RE
COMING
FOR ME!



CAN'T LET THEM
UNMASK ME...

... SEE WHO
I AM...

... SHOW ME
FOR THE LIE
THAT I AM.

CHAZAK



HE JUST --
I KNOW,
CHERE --



-- NOTHIN'
WE CAN
DO --

I HEAR THE MUFFLED
WHINE OF THE STARGATE
BEING TRIGGERED EVEN
AS THE MACHINERY
COLLAPSES AROUND ME.



BUT WHO
COULD BE --

NO.

MY FATHER WASN'T
KILLED BY "FRIENDLY
FIRE." HIS LEUTENANT
DID IT. POINT
BLANK FROM BEHIND.

BECAUSE MY FATHER
HAD SHOT HIS OWN
MEN FOR REFUSING TO
FOLLOW HIS ORDERS.

BECAUSE HIS ORDERS
WERE NOT IN THE CAUSE
OF HONOR, OR JUSTICE,
NOT EVEN REVENGE.

HE HAD LOST
CONTROL OF
HIMSELF, OF
HIS SENSE
OF... PLACE.

AND FOR ALL
I HAVE DONE,
HOW AM I ANY
DIFFERENT, ANY
BETTER?

MY WORLD
SHATTERS
AROUND ME,
ALL THE PIECES
FALLING APART.

EVEN THAT IS A LIE. IT'S
NOT MY WORLD. IT'S A
LONG-DEAD STATION IN
DEEP SPACE.

EXPOSE THE LIE
FOR WHAT IT IS
BEFORE YOU DIE.
DO IT.

WHAT IS
MY FEAR?
WHAT IS MY
TRUTH?

SIMPLE. I HAVE LIVED
MY ENTIRE LIFE IN THE
BELIEF OF LAW AND
ORDER.

WHEN LAW AND ORDER RESTRICTED
FEDERAL AGENT CARL DENTI FROM
FULFILLING HIS BELIEFS, HE CREATED
THE X-CUTIONER.

WHEN THE X-CUTIONER
FAILED TO FULFILL THOSE
BELIEFS, I CREATED AN
EXCUSE NAMED REMY
LIBERU.

AS BOTH DENTI AND
X-CUTIONER, I HAVE
VIOLATED ALL OF THE
BELIEFS I HELD SO
DEAR.

I HAVE BROKEN
LAW, DEFIED
ORDER. DENTI
WOULD ARREST
ME.

NOW, I HAVE
COMMITTED
MURDER.
X-CUTIONER
WOULD KILL ME.

HE WAS A HEROIC MAN.
HE CAME FROM A LONG
TRADITION OF HEROIC
MEN. HE STROVE TO
MAKE HIS COUNTRY
AND THE WORLD A
BETTER PLACE.

HE WAS
A LIE.

IMPRISONED BY THE TRUTH, THE HULL
COLLAPSES AND THE VACUUM OF SPACE
RUSHES IN TO GREET ME. FOR BOTH OF
US...

... JUSTICE IS SERVED.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO ME...



INTERLUDE 2

STOLEN WEATERS

ZOE
ISHIHARA, BY
INVOKING OUR
INTERNATIONAL
CHARTER --

-- AND
ASKING FOR
SANCTUARY
WITHIN THE NEW
ORLEANS'
THIEVES'
GUILD --

-- YOU HAVE
SEVERELY
COMPROMISED
US.

I KNOW, OYASUN
LIBERU, AND
FOR THAT I
APOLOGIZE.

BUT I AM
BEYOND THE
SECURITY OF MY
HOMELAND AND
PROTECTION
OF THE
ISHIHARA-
GUNI.

WITHOUT
YOUR HELP, ALL
MY EFFORTS TO
SAVE MY LITTLE
BROTHER, SHIROU,
WILL HAVE BEEN
IN VAIN --

-- AND
THE PIG
WILL KILL US
BOTH!

BIO-SCAN
CONFIRMED
REMY 1010

I.D.
CONFIRMED.

EIGHT
TARGETS,
INCLUDING
THE BOY.

WHAT
SHOULD WE
DO NEXT?

WHAT DO
YOU THINK,
NINE-TO-
FIVE?

-- WE
KILL SOME
THIEVES,
TAKE THE
BOY --

-- AND
MAKE THE
BOSS HAPPIER
THAN... A
PIG IN
MUD!

NEXT:

a Pig in the PAST +
a Pig in the PRESENT =
Remy's Ham is
COOKED!